December 9, 1999, there were 23 Judges in position in the Supreme Court of India against its sanctioned strength of 26 Judges.

Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court is made under article 124 of the Constitution of India which does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no information is maintained separately for caste or class, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Higher Pay and longer working hours for Judicial Officers

1323. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Higher pay, longer working hours for judicial officers mooted" as reported in the Times of India dated 12th November, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the National Judicial Pay Commission has recommended higher pay scales and additional working hours to clear the backlog of cases in judiciary;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to clear the cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Report of the first National Judicial Pay Commission relates to the subordinate judiciary which is primarily the concern of the State Governments/High Courts. The Commission has sent its recommendations to the Central Government, State Government, UT Administrations and High Courts. The recommendations are under examination in so far as they relate to the Central Government.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to expedite disposal of cases. These measures include, inter alia, amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure,

increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, appointment of special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates to dispose of petty criminal cases and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, conciliation, mediation, arbitration and setting up of Lok Adalats, Special Courts and Tribunals.

Changes in the Transfer policy of Judges

†1324. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minsiter of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring changes in the transfer policy of the judges of high Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any positive result has been achieved in the matter of transferring judges from one State to another?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Government decided, as a policy, that there should be a convention according to which 1/3rd of Judges in each High Court should be from any other State. Pursuant to this policy, transfer/appointment of judges and Chief Justices of the High Courts is made on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

At Present no change in the above policy is contemplated.

Accident Claims settled through Lok Adalats in Rajasthan

1325. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of accident claims settled in Rajasthan through Lok Adalats during the last three years;

(b) the number of such cases still not disposed off inspite of mutual consent given in writing; and

(c) the reasons of non-settlement of such cases in the court of Sambhar about accident held in Dudhu, Rajasthan, on 17.6.93?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.